

The media in our nation is becoming more and more a threat to the very ideals of democracy, the ideals on which our nation was founded. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a partisan anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example mass media taking advantage of its powers, and pushing its own private agenda on the public. That is one of the gravest dangers of media consolidation.

This corporation uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line, what's economically best for the corporation, and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of a slanted opinion produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. We need to now act to prevent the wealthy minority from dominating and dictating policy in this nation.

Thank you.